

CHAMBER MUSIC
N O R T H W E S T
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presents

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Images available on request

METROPOLITAN OPERA SOPRANO HEIDI GRANT MURPHY JOINS
ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET AND PIANIST KEVIN MURPHY
IN NORTHWEST PREMIÈRE OF "SONGS FROM THE DIASPORA"

**In February 7 CMNW program at Kaul Auditorium, new song cycle by Roberto Sierra
to be premièred alongside works of Haydn, Ravel and Chausson**

PORTLAND – The Northwest première of acclaimed Puerto Rican composer Roberto Sierra’s “Songs from the Diaspora” is the centerpiece of Chamber Music Northwest’s **February 7** program featuring Metropolitan Opera soprano Heidi Grant Murphy in a rare Portland appearance, pianist Kevin Murphy, and the popular St. Lawrence String Quartet in a return performance to the CMNW stage.

Commissioned by the Consortium Music Accord, Roberto Sierra’s “Songs from the Diaspora” is receiving a tour of premières this spring, and Chamber Music Northwest’s February 7 presentation will be the Pacific Northwest première of this ambitious new work for soprano, string quartet and piano. Ms. Murphy has a long association with Mr. Sierra, having performed his music previously with the National Symphony Orchestra and Seattle Symphony. “Songs from the Diaspora” was written in 2005, and is inspired by the traditional songs of the Spanish-Jewish Diaspora in late 15th century Spain.

Regarded as one of the foremost sopranos of her generation, **Heidi Grant Murphy** has a long association with the Metropolitan Opera, and has performed as soloist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra and Los Angeles Philharmonic, and is an active international recitalist. Her husband, pianist **Kevin Murphy**, also has enjoyed several seasons at the Metropolitan Opera, playing for numerous productions, and he is an accomplished vocal accompanist and chamber musician, having collaborated with Renée Fleming, Plácido Domingo and Cecilia Bartoli, among others. In September he was appointed head of the music staff at the Paris Opera.

The Grammy-nominated **St. Lawrence String Quartet** is one of the première US-based string quartets performing today, having appeared together more than 1,600 times over the past 16 years. The ensemble first appeared with Chamber Music Northwest in July 1994. Members of the St. Lawrence String Quartet are Geoff Nuttall, violin; Scott St. John, violin; Lesley Robertson, viola; and Christopher Costanza, cello.

The February 7 Chamber Music Northwest program, in addition to the Robert Sierra song cycle, will also include Ernest Chausson’s hauntingly beautiful “*Chanson Perpetuelle*” for soprano and piano, Franz Joseph Haydn’s sublime late String Quartet in G Major, Op. 77 No. 1, and the well-loved String Quartet of Maurice Ravel from 1902-03.

The February 7 Chamber Music Northwest presentation of **Soprano Heidi Grant Murphy and Kevin Murphy with the St. Lawrence String Quartet** takes place at **Kaul Auditorium at Reed College**, SE 28th and Woodstock. Tickets are \$10 (students)/\$21/\$28/\$40, and may be purchased from the CMNW box office by phone, 503-294-6400, or in person at 522 SW Fifth Avenue, Ste. 924, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Program notes, artist biographies, music samples and downloadable press materials can be found at www.cmnw.org.

At **Chamber Music Northwest** (founded in 1971), internationally acclaimed soloists and ensembles come together for a critically acclaimed fall-winter-spring concert series and a summer festival to explore the beauty and endless variety of chamber music, in performances of rare commitment and supreme artistry. Performances of CMNW are heard on National Public Radio "Performance Today," and CMNW has six compact discs commercially available on the Delos International label, as well as annual season highlight recordings.

Chamber Music Northwest presents
Soprano Heidi Grant Murphy and Kevin Murphy with the St. Lawrence String Quartet

List under:

ARTS/PERFORMANCE/CLASSICAL MUSIC/CHAMBER MUSIC

WHO: Chamber Music Northwest
WHAT: Heidi Grant Murphy and Kevin Murphy with the St. Lawrence String Quartet
WHEN: Wednesday, February 7, 2007 – 8:00 pm
WHERE: Kaul Auditorium at Reed College – 3202 SE Woodstock Boulevard, Portland

Chamber Music Northwest presents *Heidi Grant Murphy and Kevin Murphy with the St. Lawrence String Quartet*, featuring the critically-acclaimed soprano Heidi Grant Murphy in collaboration with pianist Kevin Murphy and the renowned St. Lawrence String Quartet in a musical program of Haydn, Ravel, Chausson and the Northwest première of Roberto Sierra's "Songs from the Diaspora" on Wednesday, February 7, 2007, 8:00 pm at Kaul Auditorium, Reed College (3202 SE Woodstock Boulevard). Tickets (\$10-\$40) at CMNW box office, 503-294-6400, or in person at 522 SW Fifth Avenue, Ste. 924, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

Program:

Franz Joseph Haydn String Quartet in G Major, Op. 77, No. 1
Ernest Chausson *Chanson Perpetuelle* for Soprano and Piano
Roberto Sierra Songs from the Diaspora (2005, Northwest première) for Soprano, Piano and Strings
Maurice Ravel String Quartet in F Major

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